



U.S. Department of Justice
United States Attorney
District of Kansas

NEWS RELEASE

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June 25, 2004

TOPEKA, KANSAS MAN PLEADS TO GUN CHARGE

TOPEKA, Kan. – United States Attorney Eric Melgren announced that **Deneco Scales**, 20, Topeka, Kansas, entered a guilty plea on June 24, 2004, before U.S. District Judge Sam A. Crow to **one count of possessing a firearm during a drug trafficking crime.**

Melgren said that Scales admitted at his plea that on April 13, 2004, Topeka Police Department officers were called to the intersection of Gage and 29th, Topeka, Kansas, where witnesses described to them that they had observed two black males together and one of the black males had drawn a handgun and was firing at a passing automobile. Based on witness statements, police located and stopped a vehicle leaving a nearby residence believed to be associated with Scales and another man. The automobile was driven by a woman and occupied by her daughter, another man and Deneco Scales. A search of the car revealed the following firearms: a Beretta .40 caliber semi-automatic handgun, a double-barreled sawed off 20 gauge shotgun, and an Iver Johnson .22 semi-automatic handgun. Scales was searched, incident to arrest, and recovered was approximately 1.13 grams of crack cocaine packaged in individual baggies. Scales admitted that he was a prohibited person, due to his pending indictment/complaint for attempted murder in Shawnee County case 03 CR 2350. Scales and another man were at the payphone when a car driven by an acquaintance drove past, and they thought that acquaintance was going to fire a gun at them. They shot at this acquaintance and then ran to the home and put the guns in the trunk of the car in which they were then arrested. This vehicle was stopped by T.P.D. officers as it left this residence and the firearms were located in the trunk and recovered by T.P.D. crime-scene personnel.

Scales faces a minimum of five years in federal prison without parole. Sentencing is set for September 22, 2004, at 1:30 a.m.

Melgren commended the excellent work of the Topeka Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives in this investigation and Assistant U.S. Attorney Greg Hough in this prosecution.